

Alexandria Gazette

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PRICE 2 CENTS.

MEDICINAL.

"I have no more nervous headaches and rest very well at night."

When a woman suffers from female weakness and irregularity or other forms of womanly disease, the effect is certain to be marked in her nervous system, the general effect being, as in Mrs. Woodin's case, "nervous headaches, restlessness at night" and a run-down condition. It is simply common sense then which says if you cure the female weakness, irregularity, etc., you will cure the nervousness, sleeplessness and other consequences of womanly disease.

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Alexandria Gazette.

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"PARSIFAL."

Before a magnificent audience at the New York Metropolitan Opera House "Parsifal," a "dedicational festival play," was produced Thursday night with all the splendor of a majestic stage representation.

"Parsifal" is, first, a grand symphonic drama, and, afterward, a mystical simulacrum of pious sentiment.

In the prelude, with its solemn repetition of the love feast and grail motives, the note of religious fervor is sounded with almost passionate insistence.

The draped curtains part as the final pianissimo chord dies away, disclosing a forest glade and low lying lake in the background; Gurnemanz and two of his esquires, in the sober blue gray habit of the Knights of Monsalvat, guardians of the holy grail, await the coming of King Amfortas, smitten with an incurable wound while recreant to his high trust.

Kundry, the witch, slave to the magic power of Klingsor, rushes forth with a balsam from Araby to heal Amfortas' wound. Then quickly follow Amfortas' lament, stirring narrative of Gurnemanz (finely sung by Van Rooy), and the entrance of Parsifal, the swan slayer.

The music throughout this scene is grand and impressive beyond description. The great audience, shrouded in darkness, sat breathless while the glorious harmonies swelled on, now caressing as the touch of childhood's hand, and again sonorous, dominant and thrilling as the mighty music of the spheres.

Parsifal, smitten with grief over Gurnemanz's unbraiding, breaks his bow, and the two stand silent while the knights bear away the dead swan.

Then follows a startling display of stage illusion—the transformation of the forest glade into the vast hall of the grail.

The illusion created is that of a slow progress of the two toward the castle. Trees, lakes, rocks, foliage and all pass slowly from view to the right, while gradually the great pillars and vaulted arches of the hall of the grail, with its altar and round table for the knights, bounds out in perfect perspective. There was no hitch or jarring, and before the final bells of the interlude sounded the knights had begun to file upon the scene.

Here is introduced the "last supper" episode that has evoked so much hostile criticism. But as presented here there was no suggestion of irreverence. The magical effect of Wagner's music had swept away all thoughts of the other world and the reverent knights seemed truly to be absorbed in a strange, mystical rite, glorious in inspiration and of surpassing beauty in stage effect.

"Parsifal" stands aside, rooted to the spot while the majesty of the grail is unfolded and the mystic cup glows with supernatural light. He has understood nothing of it all, this "guileless fool," and Gurnemanz scornfully ejects him from the sanctuary. The choir invisible chants the haunting and languorous love feast music and a single voice sings clear and full the promise of healing for the King.

By pity enlightened,
The guileless fool,
Wait for him,
My chosen tool.

There was no concerted applause when the first curtain fell, and a faint rattle of handclapping was instantly suppressed. The spell of the enchanter was upon all hearts and in silence the vast throng filed out through the crowded lobbies.

The second act began at 8:45, an hour and three-quarters after the close of the opening act.

This is the glowing and dramatic scene of Parsifal's dual temptation, first by the flower maiden, then by Kundry, in the guise of a beautiful enchantress. Much of the music of this scene has been made familiar to the public on the concert stage, but here, with its appropriate accompaniment of picturesque stage settings and spirited action, it was disclosed as a supreme triumph of art wedded to art music, pictorial beauty and majesty of action.

There was no wavering in the assured sweep and sway of the performance. As in the opening act, the silence and mental absorption of the vast listening throng were almost painful. When at last Parsifal seized the holy spear, hurled at him by Klingsor, there was an almost audible sensation of relief. The enchanted garden, suddenly created, as suddenly disappeared, and Parsifal stood alone, prepared for his long quest for Amfortas, the careless sufferer.

In the last act, which culminates in the healing of Amfortas by the spear's touch and the crowning of Parsifal as King, Wagner has lavished all the resource of his unique genius upon the musical score. Kundry repentant, is baptized by the returned knight, who brings with him the spear wrested from Klingsor.

Then follows the "flowery mead" music—the Good Friday spell that is at once the admiration and despair of later composers. This splendidly played by the orchestra under Conductor Hertz and appeared, indeed, like a new revelation of the possibilities of dulcet and bewitching harmony.

Again the scene was changed, with the amazing effects noted in the first act and to the divine harmonies of the grail and belief motives the knights assembled to greet their deliverer. Amfortas, wishing to die, has kept the grail veiled and the knights are clamorous for the renewal of strength and faith which only the sacred vessel can bring.

A touch of the spear, a gladsome proclamation in divine melody of the new king of the grail and soft voices far in the distant empyrean chant anew the blissful love feast music, the final curtain is slowly drawn, the enchantment is ended

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